



the new children's museum™

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**Photos available upon request**

## **The New Children's Museum to Receive \$20,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts**

*Grant will fund expansion of The Wonder Sound installation by artist Wes Bruce.*

SAN DIEGO – February 4, 2021 – The New Children's Museum has been approved for a **\$20,000 Grants for Arts Project award** to support an expansion of its popular art installation *The Wonder Sound* by artist Wes Bruce. The project is among 1,073 projects across America totaling nearly \$25 million selected during the first round of fiscal year 2021 funding in the Grants for Arts Projects funding category. Out of 151 awards in California, only 10 were given to San Diego County organizations.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support this project from The New Children's Museum," said Arts Endowment Acting Chairman Ann Eilers. "The New Children's Museum is among the arts organizations across the country that have demonstrated creativity, excellence, and resilience during this very challenging year."

This expansion project is timed to coincide with the five-year anniversary of *The Wonder Sound*, introduced in 2016. A visitor favorite, *The Wonder Sound* installation consists of a labyrinth of rooms and tunnels that explore nature, wonder, joy, sorrow and the stories we tell about them. The grant will enable the Museum to collaborate again with Wes Bruce to enhance the current installation as well as create a new, outdoor healing space for children and families to rediscover when the Museum reopens.

"Museums and artists are second responders in helping us process the events of the past year," said Museum Director of Exhibitions, Megan Dickerson. "When we come back together post-COVID, we will need intentionally designed healing spaces. This partnership with Wes Bruce will allow us to do that – create a place of healing and care for the children and caregivers of our community."

The National Endowment for the Arts has supported many of the Museum's projects over the past few years, most recently its Rosso Family Foundation Innovators LAB artist residency that led to *Energized*, a window mural by Regan Russell completed in 2020.

For more information on projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

### **About The New Children's Museum**

The New Children's Museum is a new model of children's museum whose mission is to stimulate imagination, creativity and critical thinking in children and families through inventive and engaging experiences with contemporary art. Located downtown, the Museum collaborates with contemporary artists to design and create art installations and educational programs for children. The Museum brings families together in a rich educational environment that fosters creativity — blending the best elements of children's museums, contemporary art museums and community resources. In 2018, the Museum celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> year in San Diego and its 10<sup>th</sup> year as The New Children's Museum downtown. To learn more, visit [thinkplaycreate.org](https://www.thinkplaycreate.org) or follow them on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

### **About the National Endowment for the Arts**

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) to learn more.

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